

Allen W. Dulles Dies; For

Head of Central Intelligence

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 — Al-

len W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency and one of the most controversial figures in the entire intelligence operation, died last night. He was 74 years old.

Mr. Dulles had in recent years suffered a series of small strokes. He continued, however, to receive old friends and maintain the outward air of good humor that was a strong characteristic.

Mr. Dulles was a central figure in the Cuban Bay of Pigs fiasco. President John F. Kennedy had been in office only a short time in 1961 when he learned the details of a plan to invade Cuba, put together by the CIA. The plan was far advanced with secret training of special forces for air and ground operations in Guatemala.

Kennedy then had to decide whether to give the go-ahead signal for the invasion. In prolonged sessions with his civilian and military advisers Kennedy was assured by Mr. Dulles that a small invasion force would trigger an uprising of the Cuban people. The view of virtually all those participating in the high-level appraisal favored the operation. Almost the only dissent came from chairman J. William Fulbright (Dem.), Arkansas, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who expressed his views in a memorandum to the President.

The small invasion force made up of Cuban exiles was met with massive resistance and soon appealed for air strikes by American planes. Within 48 hours the hopeless nature of this adventure was evident and the President decided against engaging in a full-scale attack. Aside from those killed in the first assault the entire force of several hundred men was captured. Most of them have been ransomed.

In the outcry that followed, Kennedy was urged to fire Mr. Dulles as an example of an intelligence estimate that had been completely in error. He refused, saying the responsibility was his. Later in 1961, Mr. Dulles was allowed to retire.

It was said that before the Bay of Pigs he had planned to retire.

The Bay of Pigs was a blemish on a career that had seen many achievements in the intelligence field. In World War II Mr. Dulles had operated in Switzerland for the Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor of CIA, with a close liaison with the German underground that attempted unsuccessfully in 1944 to assassinate Hitler.

Shaping the CIA

As deputy director of CIA prior to becoming head of the agency in 1953 he had a great deal to do with shaping its course. As director, Mr. Dulles was scrupulously careful to stay out of the news, although at times he talked with reporters off the record about the work of the CIA.

Unlike his brother, John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State in the Eisenhower years, who had a rather forbidding and Calvinist view of life, Allen Dulles had a courtly manner and a marked sense of humor. The two brothers, both of whom came originally out of the powerful Wall Street law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, could hardly have been more unlike. Yet they were united by a close family bond.

Another controversy arose over the U-2 spy plane that was shot down when on an espionage flight over the Soviet Union. This came only two weeks before President Eisenhower was to go to Moscow for a return visit with Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

CIA Criticized

The plane incident, which Eisenhower refused to disavow, stirred Khrushchev's anger and he canceled the Eisenhower visit. It was widely believed at the time that this put an end to what had been a chance to abate tensions with the Soviet Union. The CIA was widely criticized for authorizing the flight of pilot Gary Francis Powers at a moment when the President was about to embark on a major diplomatic mission.

Mr. Dulles initiated the CIA's huge headquarters across the Potomac in nearby Virginia. This, too, was a source of considerable controversy. Opponents argued that a secret intelligence agency should not have a conspicuous headquarters at

least half as large as the Pentagon.

But Mr. Dulles got President Eisenhower's approval and went rapidly forward on the great gleaming white building referred to as Mr. Dulles's white elephant. His argument was that the CIA with at least 10,000 employees in Washington scattered through a number of buildings needed to be concentrated in one center. After the building was opened, a large sign on the main highway said "to the CIA," indicating the side road to the headquarters on the banks of the Potomac. This was the source of so many jokes that it was taken down.

No Look of a Spy

Starting his public career in the American foreign service, Mr. Dulles throughout his life had the look of a rather benign ambassador or a scholarly pipe-smoking professor. There was nothing about him of the professional spy.

He had the loyalty of the top men in the intelligence agency who continued to consult him after his retirement. One of his admirers is Richard Helms, the first career man in the agency to succeed to the directorship. The top level of intelligence is a close and a closed fraternity and for this little group of men Mr. Dulles has long been a paternal figure.

His private life was marked by tragedy. His only son, Allen Macy Dulles, suffered a severe head wound in the Korean war and has long been institutionalized in a special school in Germany. Surviving are his wife, the former Clover Todd; two daughters, and a sister, Eleanor Lansing Dulles, who for some years was a German specialist in the State Department.

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